

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner made final the restriction requirement between Group 1 which includes claims 1-5 and 9-12 and Group 2 which contains dependent claims 6-8. With regard to the claims relating to the elected subject matter, the Examiner rejected them based on the combination of Pettigrew et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,960,651, in view of Jin et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,106,163. The Examiner did not include claims 11 and 12 in the original statement of the rejection on page 2 of the Action, but from the discussion on page 4, applicants understand that the rejection was meant to extend to claims 11 and 12 as well.

By the present Amendment, the claims have been amended to specifically recite a laminate comprising two or more magnetic thin plates with each magnetic thin plate being coated with a high molecular compound and wherein the two or more magnetic thin plates are partially in contact with one another via the high molecular compound. Claim 1 further recites that the volume resistivity defined in JIS H 0505 in a direction perpendicular to the high molecular compound surface of the magnetic thin plates is from 0.1 to less than $10^8 \Omega\text{cm}$. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification such as in paragraph [0011] and it will be noted that the Examples provided in the specification involve multiple coated magnetic thin plates. The recitation that the volume resistivity is in a direction perpendicular to the high molecular compound surface of the magnetic metal thin plates is supported by the discussion provided in paragraph [0024]. The remaining original claims in the application have been amended in a manner which is consistent with the revisions to claim 1. New claims 13 and 14 have been added to recite particular high molecular compounds pursuant to the disclosure provided in paragraph [0021].

The invention defined in the claims of record is neither anticipated by nor obvious over the cited prior art. Pettigrew et al. relates to a magnetic device comprising a substrate and a thin coating of a magnetic material. The Examiner has referred to the discussion provided at column 9, lines 47-64 which relates to a series of discrete islands or strips of a deactivating material that, when a deactivation field is applied, gives rise to regions within the active layer of opposed magnetically clamped characteristics. The deactivation regimes are set forth in the passage

beginning at column 7, line 61 and include a mild steel foil, cold worked stainless steel foil or strips, steel fibers, a thick film ferrite, zones of a hard magnetic material and the aforementioned discrete islands or strips of the deactivating material. A thin foil of stainless steel is used in Example 1 of the patent.

The deactivating material relied on by the Examiner is not a high molecular compound as recited in the claims of records and would not provide a comparable results. In this latter respect, if the deactivating material of Pettigrew et al., such as stainless steel, is used in the laminate of the present invention, the size of the obtained magnetic core would substantially increase and the magnetic properties thereof would be lowered. In this respect, it will be noted that Pettigrew et al. relates to an antipilferage tag or marker and not a magnetic core and therefore is not concerned with characteristics relevant to a magnetic core.

Absence improper reliance on applicants' own specification, those of ordinary skill in the art would not modify the magnetic device of Pettigrew et al. based on the teachings of Jin et al. in the manner proposed by the Examiner. As explained above, the deactivating material of Pettigrew et al. contains a deactivating material which is substantially different from a high molecular compound. Those skilled in the art would not seek to replace this material with a polypropylene thermoplastic material, particularly in view of the substantial different in characteristics between the respective materials. In this regard, it is again noted that Pettigrew et al. provides a magnetic device that is used as an antipilferage tag or marker where as Jin et al. relates to an isolation transformer core having a coil and a core member. Accordingly, the present claimed invention is patentable over the hypothetical combination of prior art.

As a further point of distinction, new claims 13 and 14 recite particular high molecular compounds that are different from even the polypropylene relied on by the Examiner with respect to Jin et al. Thus, these claims are further patentable over the combined teachings of the patents, even assuming that a valid reason exists for combining them.

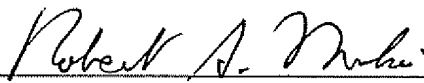
In view of the foregoing discussion, applicants respectfully submit that the claims now of record are patentable over the cited prior art and therefore request reconsideration and allowance of the present application. Additionally, applicants

request rejoinder of dependent method claims 6-8 pursuant to the provisions of MPEP §821.04(b).

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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